S
799.11
F2easb
1999

Environmental
Assessment for
Sportsmans Bridge
Fishing Access
Site

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
3 0864 0014 6091 7

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR

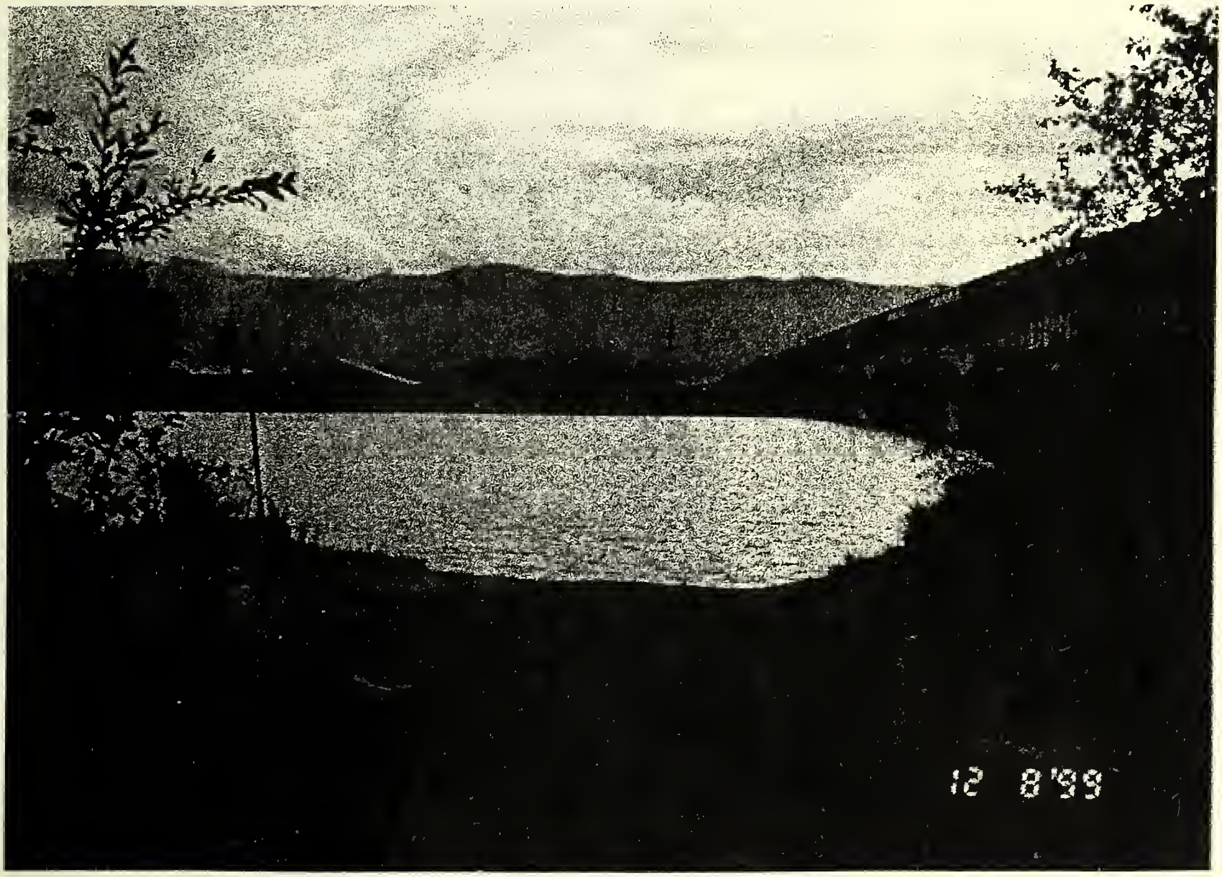
SPORTSMANS BRIDGE

FISHING ACCESS SITE

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

September, 1999



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

DRAFT

TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGE

Proposed Action Description 1

Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action 2

Agencies with Jurisdiction and those Consulted 4-5

Environmental Review 6-14

Alternatives Considered 14-15

Narrative Evaluation and Comments 15-16

APPENDIX

A-1 Area Map

A-2 Existing Ramp and Lagoon

A-3 Existing Site With Proposed New Ramp

A-4 Boat Lagoon Dredging Approval

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Montana State Library

https://archive.org/details/environmentalas1999mont_2

DRAFT

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action:** Construct a new deep water boat ramp into the Flathead River, pave the access road from the intersection with Hwy. 82 into the site and replace the vault toilet.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

3. **Name of Project:** Sportsmans Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS).

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**

5. **If Applicable:**

   Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Fall 2000
   Estimated Completion Date: Fall 2001
   Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 5%

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township):** Flathead County, Section 23, T. 27 N., R. 20 W. (See Appendix A-1)

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

   (a) Developed:
   residential _ acres
   industrial _ acres

   (b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation 5.77 Acre

   (c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas _ acres

   (d) Floodplain _ acres Approximately .

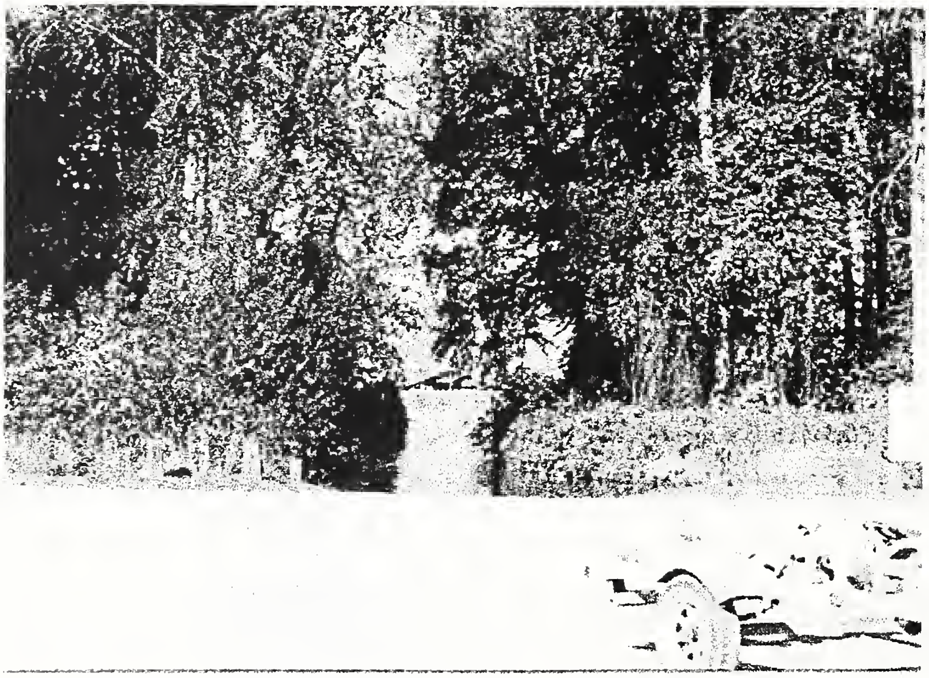
   (e) Productive:
   irrigated cropland acres
   dry cropland acre
   forestry acres
   rangeland acres
   acres other acre

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

The proposed action is to construct a deep water concrete boat ramp into the Flathead River and replace the present vault toilet with one which will be accessible to the handicapped. Also, because of the sharp and steep entrance to the site at the intersection with Hwy. 82, paving of the entrance road is necessary for safety and maintenance. (See Appendix A-1 and A-2))

There is presently a concrete boat ramp into a lagoon which provides access into the Flathead river for approximately six months of the year. However, the lagoon fills with silt and had to be dredged out every three or four years. Due to winter drawndowns, the present ramp and lagoon does not provide access to the river on a year round basis. (See Appendix A-2)



Existing concrete ramp and lagoon leading into the Flathead River. Photo by W. Worthington. 7/27/99

Construction of the present boat lagoon occurred in 1963. It was noted in 1972 the need to dredge the lagoon. Action at that time was deferred, but the lagoon was cleaned out once or twice in the 1980s. It appeared that the lagoon required cleaning out every 5-10 years. In an article published on March 16, 1994, in the Bigfork Eagle, FWP stated that they planned to clean out the lagoon when the water level was down, the silt and soil relatively dry, and dispose of the soil elsewhere off site. It was stated at that time that the long-term plan was to replace the lagoon with a ramp on the river bank, but that the project was five to 10 years away.

At that time, FWP had received repeated and increasing complaints that the mouth of the boat lagoon was silting in, making it difficult to access the river with motorboats. Although FWP cleaned out the lagoon in the past, they were reluctant to do so again because they did not want to establish a legal precedent for construction and maintenance of boat lagoons.

In an agreement with the FWP Stream Protection Coordinator on March 25, 1994, the project was approved as long as special conditions were adhered to (Appendix A-4). These conditions were followed in the 1994 dredging. In addition, it was determined that no future permit for maintenance dredging of this boat lagoon would be issued unless there was a well-documented and exhaustive effort made to implement the permanent solution (boat ramp construction) discussed in the Stream Protection Act (SPA) application.

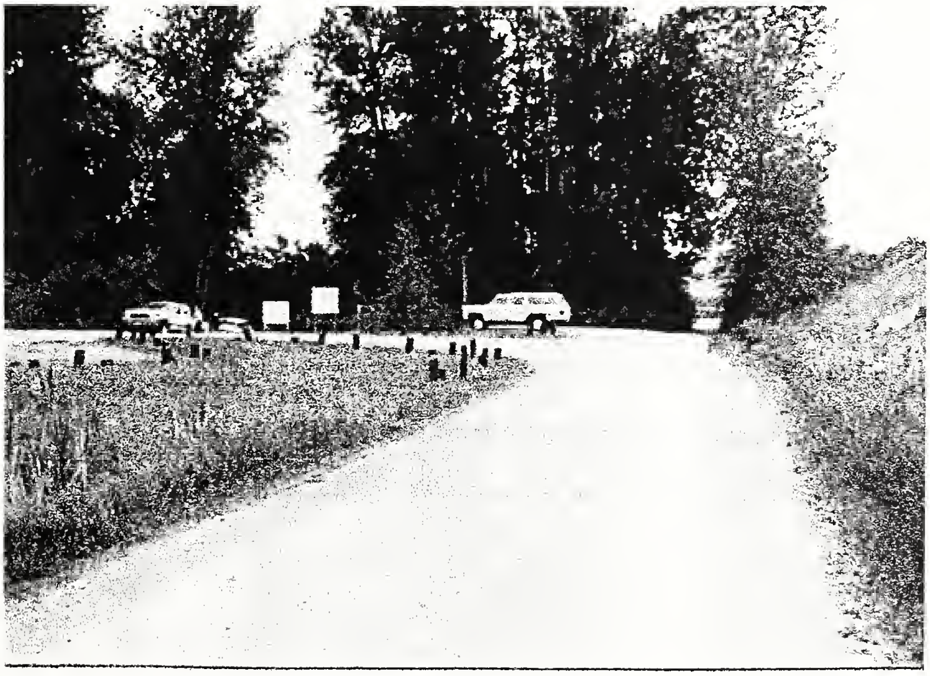
At the same time, the Montana Department of Transportation currently had a project programmed to reconstruct MT 82 between Somers and MT 35, which included widening or replacing the bridge over the Flathead River, and was tentatively scheduled for January, 1999. At that time it was felt that it may be possible to coordinate construction of the boat ramp with the highway project.

Due to the winter drawdown on Flathead Lake, there is a 10 foot fluctuation of water elevation between the summer and winter use seasons at Sportsmans Bridge FAS, limiting year long access. The lagoon does not provide a low water access. A new concrete ramp to low winter drawdown will provide river access the entire season. (See Appendix A-3). The existing lagoon will be left to naturally fill in until unusable, or manually filled to revert back to its natural condition.

During the last 4th of July holiday, the existing vault toilet was vandalized. The toilet was repaired to a somewhat acceptable condition, however, the facility was made unacceptable for permanent continual use. A new structure will also provide the opportunity to provide for handicapped use.

The entrance intersection with Montana Hwy. 82 has a sharp dogleg angle and there is a short steep grade down to the lower level of the facility. The steepness creates a washboard effect causing additional maintenance cost and a somewhat dangerous condition at the intersection. Paving will mitigate both of these problems.

The site provides the opportunity for many recreationists to gain access to 22 miles on the Flathead River, northern Flathead Lake and six sloughs on the river. Estimated annual use is between 2,000 to 5,000 user days per year, and is expected to increase when a low water ramp is installed. The fishery in the lake and river includes lake trout and Lake Superior whitefish. Northern pike and large mouth bass are found in the sloughs.



Existing ramp and lagoon located left of signs. Proposed new concrete ramps location is straight ahead through space in trees. Photo by W. Worthington.

Access road looking back toward entrance. Photo by W. Worthington. 7/27/99

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#

(b) Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name	Type of Responsibility

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

[illegible]YSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be	
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Mitigated?	Comment
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		x				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		**yes**	**1b**
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		x				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?			X		**yes**	**1d**
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		x				
f. Other						

1b & 1d There will be some disruption and soil displacement during the construction period. Construction will be accomplished i[illegible]the winter when the water level is at it's lowest level, reducing any disturbance that may cause displacement or siltation of the [illegible]r. It is not expected that any channel change will occur.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			x		**yes**	2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		**yes**	2b
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		x				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		x				
e. For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		x				
f. Other						

[illegible]& 2b. Minor and temporary amounts of dust and construction equipment pollutants will occur during the construction period. Once construction and ground disturbance action is complete, these odors and pollutants will no longer occur. In addition, the construction will take place during the winter when use is expected to be lower and at a short distance from the present access point.

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

FWP Recreation Division
FWP Fishery Division
FWP Wildlife Division
Flathead County Regional Development Office
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Flathead County
Montana Historical and Cultural Preservation (SHPO)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

[illegible] WATER **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		**x**				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			**X**		**yes**	**3b**
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		**x**				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		**x**				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		**x**				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		**x**				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		**x**				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		**x**				
[illegible] Effects on any existing water right or [illegible]eservation?		**x**				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		**x**				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		**x**				
l. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		**x**				
m. For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		**x**				
n. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3b. The creation of a new boat ramp into the Flathead River may create a small amount of run off from the access road and ramp into the river. Design of the concrete ramp will mitigate this impact. All Stream Protection rules and regulations will be followed during the construction period.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		**no**	**4a**
b. Alteration of a plant community?		x				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		x				
f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		x				
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4a. It will be necessary to remove some trees an shrubs in order to widen the access road and construct a turn-a-round at the new boat ramp. However this will not have a major affect on the vegetation on the site.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		x				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		x				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		x				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		x				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		x				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		x				
h. For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		x				
i. For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		x				
j. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		**yes**	6a
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?			X		**yes**	**6b**
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		x				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		x				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a.& 6b. Some temporary increase in noise levels may occur during the construction period, and will disappear when construction is complete. Construction will occur during the off season. There are no residents located near the site that may be affected by the noise.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Commen Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		x				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		x				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		x				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		x				
e. Other: ____________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		x				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		x				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		x				
d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		x				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		x				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		x				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		x				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		x				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X		yes	9e
f. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9.e. Use may increase at times as the result of the new ramp, however, it is not anticipated this will have a major impact in the area as the major increase will occur in the winter time when summer tourism is over.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: ________		x				
b. Have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		x				
c. Result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		x				
d. Result in increased used of any energy source?		x				
e. Define projected revenue sources						
f. Define projected maintenance costs.						
g. Other:______________						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		x				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		x				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		x				
d. For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		x				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

MAN ENVIRONMENT

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		x				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		x				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		x				
d. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? **Attach SHPO letter of clearance.** (Also see 12.a)		x				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		x				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		x				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		x				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		x				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		x				
f. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		x				
g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		x				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed): 13.g-A 310 permit will be required from the County Conservation District.

2. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

Alternative #1---No Action---Do not construct the low water ramp, pave the entrance road or replace the vault toilet. This alternative would continue increased maintenance costs, lack of an all season boat access to the Flathead River with the resultant dissatisfaction of the public users and continued use of a damaged vault toilet which does not serve all the public adequately.

Alternative #2---Construct low water boat ramp, pave entrance road and replace vault toilet.---This alternative would provide all the opportunities to upgrade a heavily used boating and fishing access facility to Montana Residents as well as many out of state recreational visitors to the lower Flathead River and northern Flathead Lake. Upgrading the vault toilet would make the site more usable by the handicapped. Paving the access road would eliminate the wash board surface which currently requires extensive regrading and the related cost.

Alternative #3---Replace the vault toilet only.---This alternative would improve the sanitary situation on the site but would do nothing to improve low water access into Flathead River or alleviate the problems associated with the access road. Dissatisfaction of users would continue.

3. **Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**

All contracts will comply with FWP, ADA, USCE and FRDO specifications, time frames and bidding procedures. Work will be scheduled to minimize impacts to the users and nearby residents.

4. **Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:**

NO, An EIS is not required as cumulative impacts are judged to be non existent or minor and can be mitigated by management controls and decisions.

5. **Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

A public meeting is not planned at this time. If there is a demand for one, it will be held. Notices of the impending improvements will be published in the legal notices of the local newspapers, and on the electronic State bulletin board advising the availability of copies of the EA for public review.

6. **Duration of comment period if any:**

30 Days

7. **Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:**

Wayne B. Worthington, Consultant
Landscape Architect
365 Summit Ridge Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
Tel. No. (406) 752-2916

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

1b & 1d There will be some disruption and soil displacement during the construction period. Construction will be accomplished in the winter when the water level is at it's lowest level, reducing any disturbance that may cause displacement or siltation of the river. It is not expected that any channel change will occur.

2a & 2b. Minor and temporary amounts of dust and construction equipment pollutants will occur during the construction period. Once construction and ground disturbance action is complete, these odors and pollutants will no longer occur. In addition, the construction will take place during the winter when use is expected to be lower and at a short distance from the present access point.

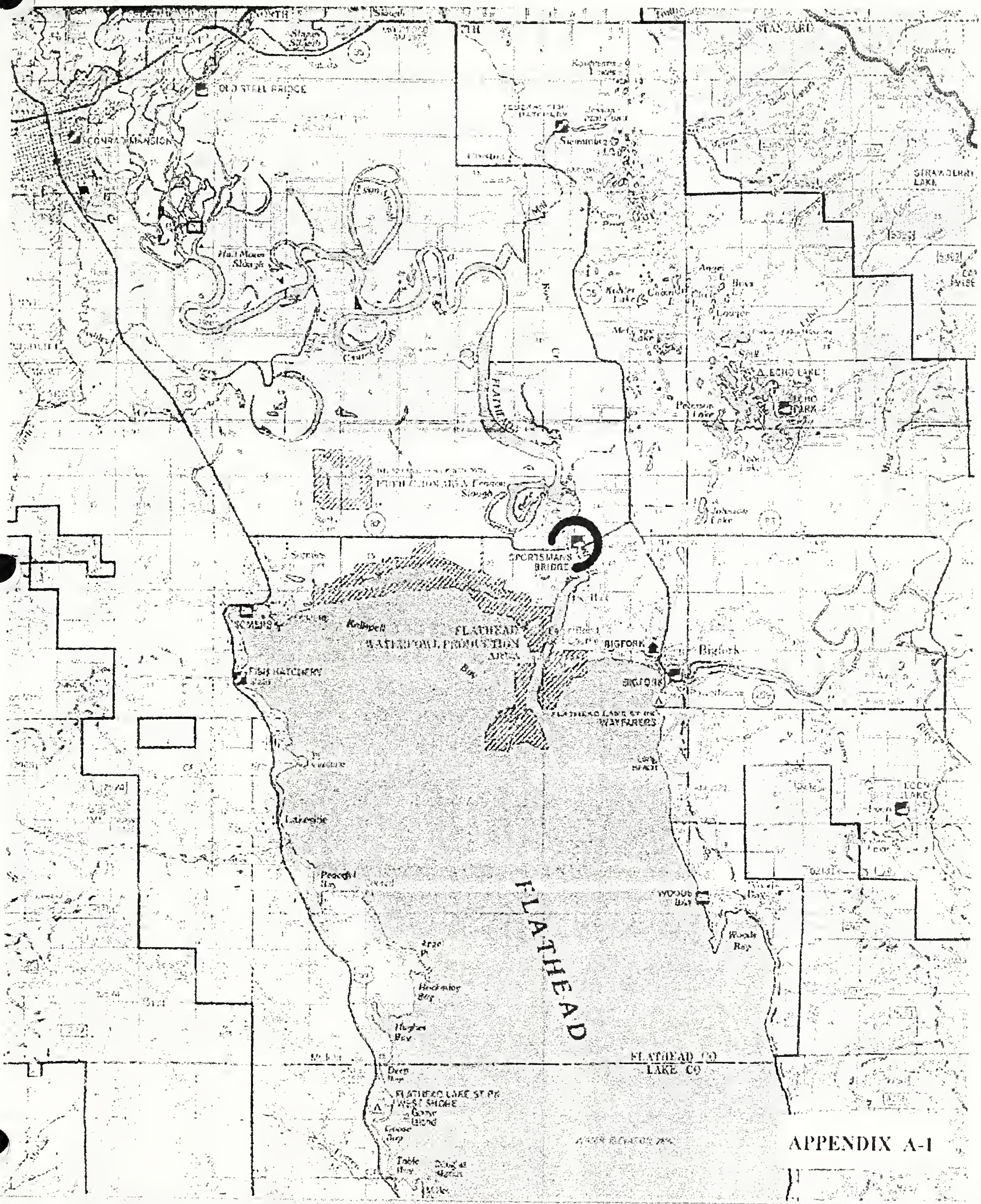
3b. The creation of a new boat ramp into the Flathead River may create a small amount of run off from the access road and ramp into the river. Design of the concrete ramp will mitigate this impact. All Stream Protection rules and regulations will be followed during the construction period.

4a. It will be necessary to remove some trees an shrubs in order to widen the access road and construct a turn-a-round at the new boat ramp. However this will not have a major affect on the vegetation on the site.

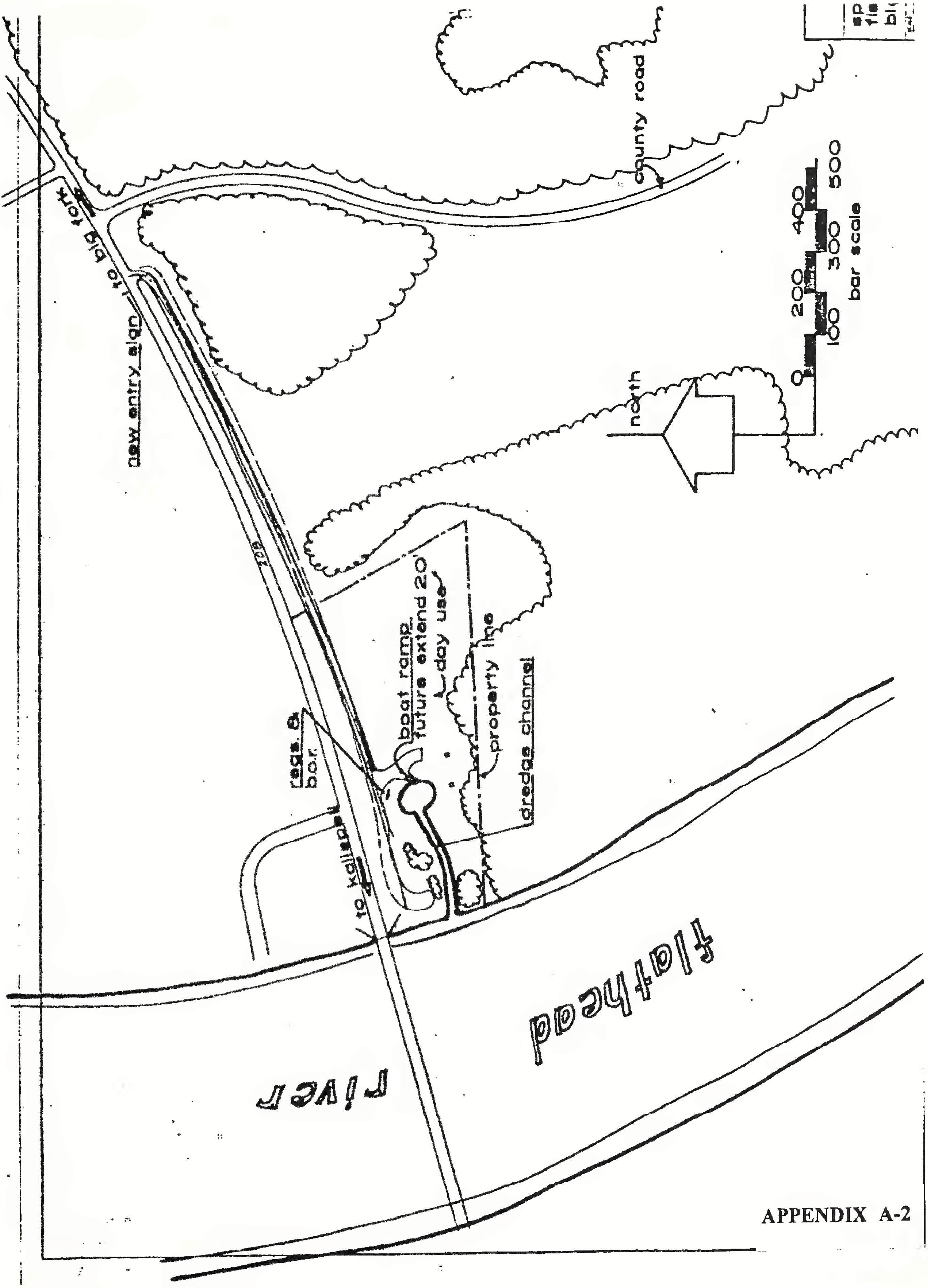
6a.& 6b. Some temporary increase in noise levels may occur during the construction period, and will disappear when construction is complete. Construction will occur during the off season. There are no residents located near the site that may be effected by the noise.

9.e. Use may increase at times as the result of the new ramp, however, it is not anticipated this will have a major impact in the area as the major increase will occur in the winter time when summer tourism is over.

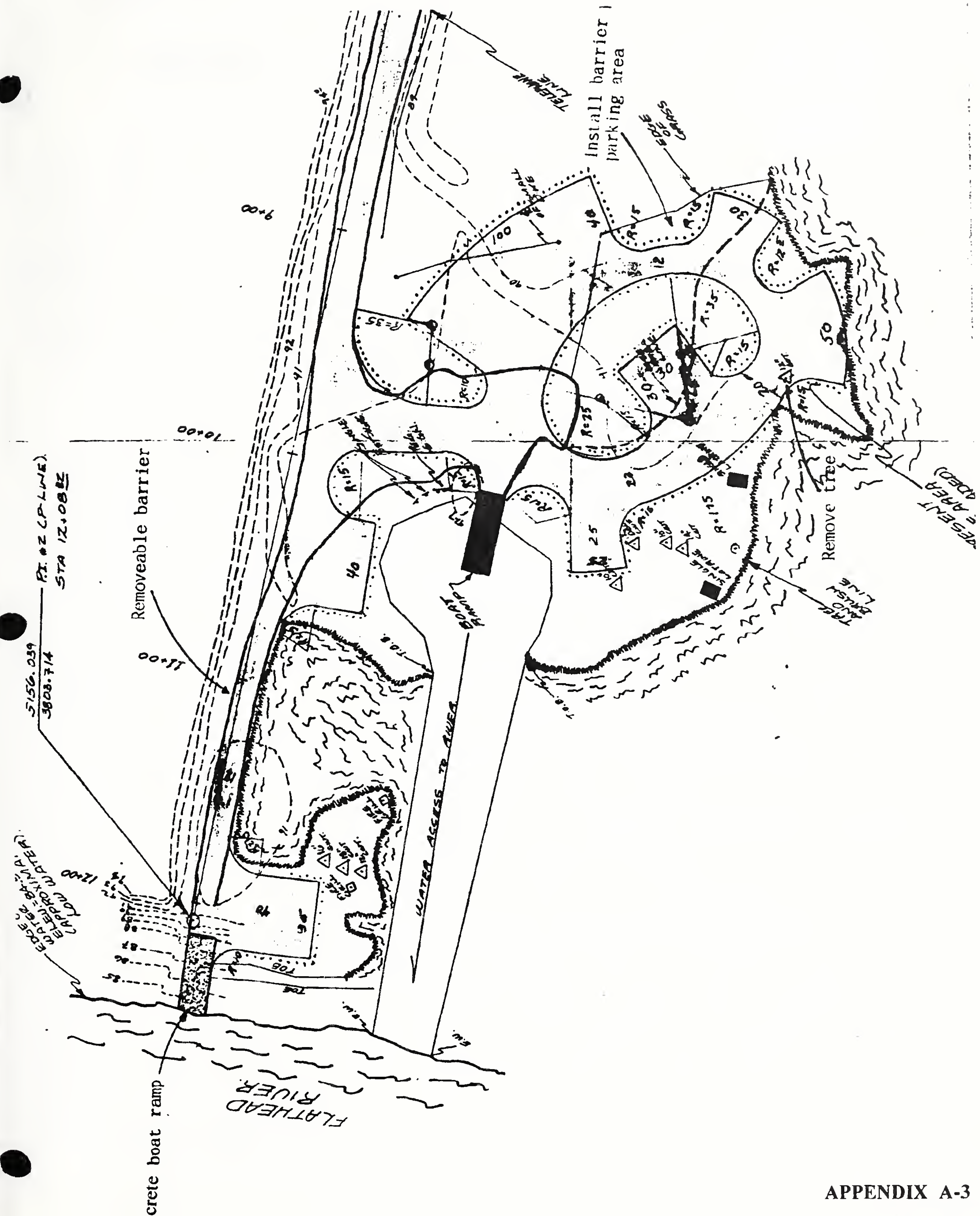
APPENDIX


OLD STEEL BRIDGE
CONRAD MANSION
Half Moon Slough
FEDERAL FISH HATCHERY
STANDARD
STRAWBERRY LAKE
Kehler Lake
Peterson Lake
ECHO LAKE
ECHO PARK
Johnson Lake
SPORTSMANS BRIDGE
SOMERS
FLATHEAD WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA
FISH HATCHERY
BIGFORK
Bigfork
FLATHEAD LAKE ST PK WAYFARERS
Lakeside
Peaceful Bay
WOODS BAY
Woods Bay
Hughes Bay
Deep Bay
FLATHEAD LAKE ST PK WEST SHORE
Goose Island
FLATHEAD
FLATHEAD CO
LAKE CO

APPENDIX A-1


to big fork
new entry sign
county road
north
0 100 200 300 400 500
bar scale
208
regs. & b.o.r.
boat ramp
future extend 20'
day use
property line
dredge channel
to kalispell
flathead
river

APPENDIX A-2


Concrete boat ramp
FLATHEAD RIVER
Removeable barrier
Install barrier in parking area
Remove tree
BOAT RAMP
WATER ACCESS TO RIVER
TELEPHONE LINE
EDGE OF GRASS
TREE BRUSH LINE
SINGLE LATRINE
PT. #2 CP-LINE
STA 12+08E
5156.039
3808.714
12+00
11+00
10+00
9+00
R=35
R=15
R=25
R=175
R=5
100
40
30
50
25
23
12
20

APPENDIX A-3

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

File Copy
Sportsman Bridge Dredging
Photo's attached

1420 E 6th Ave
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701
March 25, 1994

Jim Vashro
Region 1 Fish Manager
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT

RE: Permit No. MISC-12-94
Sportsmans Bridge FAS
Boat Lagoon Dredging

Relative to the Montana Stream Preservation Act, the Department has completed our review of your proposed maintenance project on the Flathead River. The project is approved as submitted as long as the following special conditions are adhered to:

1. The proposed work shall be completed in the dry while the site is dewatered due to Kerr Dam drawdown.
2. All work shall be done in an expeditious manner to avoid unnecessary impacts to the Flathead River and Flathead Lake.
3. All construction activities performed in the boat lagoon and the immediate vicinity shall be conducted in a manner to reduce in-stream turbidity along with minimizing disturbances to the streambed and/or streambank. Equipment shall only be operated in the dry before the level of Flathead Lake is raised to the elevation of the bottom of the boat lagoon.
4. Precautions shall be taken to preserve existing riparian vegetation. Any clippings from the cutting of the overhanging brush should be disposed of properly.
5. A silt fence or straw bales shall be installed between the dredged area and the Flathead River prior to beginning the work, and shall remain in place until after the work is completed. All areas outside the limits of the lagoon which are disturbed by the construction activity shall be protected with temporary erosion control measures during the construction activities. These areas, including the areas where the dredged material is placed, shall be reclaimed with long term erosion control measures and revegetated as soon as practicable.
6. No machinery will be allowed in the main channel of the Flathead River.

APPENDIX A-4

7. The material removed during the dredging operation shall be placed in a manner and location which will not allow the material or runoff from the material to reenter any waters of the U.S. All material removed from the boat lagoon shall be placed above the ordinary high water elevation. It is not permissible to use the material as fill in any wetland areas.

8. Upon completion of the dredging activity the freshly exposed lagoon bottom must be compacted to consolidate the surface material. This will minimize the potential for suspension of fine material as the level of the river rises.

_X_ This project will not cause significant turbidity and a 3-A Authorization will not be required.

~~It is recommended that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be contacted to ensure project compliance with Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act.~~

No future permit for maintenance dredging of this boat lagoon will be issued unless there is a well documented and exhaustive effort made to implement the permanent solution (boat ramp construction) discussed in the SPA application.

There is currently a project programmed by the Montana Department of Transportation to reconstruct MT 82 between Somers and MT 35, which includes widening or replacing the bridge over the Flathead River. This project is known as "Somers-East, F82-1(2)0, CN 1309" and is tentatively scheduled to be ready for contract by January of 1999 (per 3/25/94 phone conversation with MDT). It may be possible to coordinate construction of a boat ramp with that highway project.

Attached is a copy of a detail sheet which shows proper installation of silt fence and straw bales for use in controlling sediment discharge from the site. If straw bales are used it is not necessary to back them with fence but it is necessary that they be embedded the required 4"-6" and that they fit tightly together.

Todd N. Tillinger
Stream Protection Coordinator
Fisheries Division

Attachment

c: Water Quality Bureau - DHES, Helena
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Helena Regulatory Office
File

Oxford®
ESSELTE
10%